

Library Automation

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INTRODUCTION:

The main aim of any library is to provide access to proper information, to the right users in as possible as short time. In an environment of information explosion. Due to growing demands of the user and shrinking of financial resources, library is not able to obtain all the reading materials on demand. The only way to over come these problem is resources sharing thorough net working.

The development of library services in higher learning is a complex process to cover up advances of disciplines. Strategic planning for acquisition, use of information managements techniques, use of new technologies and regular updating.

New technologies library provides several new materials, media and mode of storing and communicating the information. Library Automation reduces the drudgery of repeated manual efforts in library routine. By use of library automation collection, Storage, Administration, Processing, Preservation and communication etc.

In an broad sense a Library network should share resources. Networking is necessitated keeping in view of the following facts:

- Tremendous growth of literature
- Increasing cost of documents.
- Declining library budget
- Technological advancement
- Customers need satisfaction

What is Automation :

The term automation is introduced used first D.S. Harder in 1936. He defined it as, “the automation is handling of parts between progressive production processes. Since then the term has been applied to a wide variety of automatic machinery and automatic systems. And is action for human efforts of intelligence.

Definition of Automation:

Automation work is used for automatic technical process.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, “ The name given to an automatic system of working. The difference between automation and mechanization is mainly one of degree”

“The technique of making apparatus or a system that operates automatically” .

In general automation is the automatic, as opposed to human, operation or control of a process, equipment or a system; or the techniques and equipments used to achieve this. In libraries automation refers to the process of automatic in-house functions such as circulation, cataloguing, Acquisitions, Serials Controls etc.

Need for Library Automation:

There are several reasons for automation. A considerable saving in efforts, Time and resources involved in manual processing can be achieved. The other reasons are:

- 1) To improve control over collection.
- 2) To have an entries control over the entire operation.
- 3) To improve the existing services as well as introduce new services.
- 4) To avoid duplicate of work.
- 5) To use services of the existing staff effectively.

From the library point of view automation in library is also necessary because:

- 1) Largely textual in nature.
- 2) Bibliographic record is of variable length.
- 3) A field in a record may repeat many times.
- 4) File size is usually vary large.
- 5) Updating of files is done almost every day.
- 6) To record the date accurately, special devices are required.

Basic Requirement of Library Automation:

The following are the basic requirements for the automation of libraries through the computer:

- 1) Adequate collection
- 2) Financial assistance
- 3) Computer hardware
- 4) Library software
- 5) Training of the staff
- 6) Maintenance of development

Advantages of Library Automation:

There are several advantages of Library Automation a machine readable catalogue prepared at the time of acquisition may be required respectively for number of purposes. Automation has the following advantages.

- 1) Professional staff need not spend much time to do the routine library work.
- 2) Eliminates human errors while performing routine library works.
- 3) Improved control covers library collection.
- 4) Increased computer awareness among users.
- 5) Cataloguing is faster, instant access to non records.
- 6) Excellent control over circulation.

Some Library Software:

SOUL

LIBSYS

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